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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/542,854	04/04/2000	Edward G. Cazalet	APXX0003	6184

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EXAMINER

BORISSOV, IGOR N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/542,854

Applicant(s)

CAZALET ET AL.

Examiner

Igor Borissov

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 3, 8, 27 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claims 3 and 27, the term “said AC power transfer collection” in those claims lacks antecedent basis.

As per claims 8, it is confusing because it cites the limitations of claim 7 while referring to claim 1.

As per claims 32, it is confusing because it cites the limitations of claim 31 while referring to claim 25.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C.

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122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-17, 22-24, 25-41, 45-51 and 52-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tuck et al. (U. S. 6,115,698).

Tuck et al. teach to a system and method for trading electric energy, comprising:

As per claims 1, 7-8, 25, 31-32 and 52:

- at least one computer coupled to an associated computer readable memory containing a program code segment (column 2, lines 26-27; column 18, lines 26-41);

wherein said program code segment supporting contracting an associated AC power transfer on each of flow gates of a flow gate collection (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20; column 11, lines 29-44; column 18, lines 44-67).

As per claims 2 and 26, said system and method, comprising:

- contracting said associated AC power transfer on each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection to take place over at least first time interval (column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15).

As per claims 3 and 27, said system and method, comprising:

- contracting a sum of said associated AC power transfer for each of said AC power transfers of said AC power transfer collection on each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection (column 11, lines 29-44; column 18, lines 44-67).

As per claims 4 and 28, said system and method, wherein each flow gate of said flow gate collection has an associated maximum safe carrying capacity; and said sum of said

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associated AC power transfer for each of said AC power transfers of said AC power transfer collection satisfying said associated maximum safe carrying capacity on each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection (column 4, line 60 through column 5, lines 15).

As per claims 5 and 29, said system and method, comprising:

- contracting each of said sum of said associated AC power transfer for each of said AC power transfers of said AC power transfer collection to take place at least over said first time interval (column 4, line 60 through column 5, lines 15; column 11, line 50 through column 12, line 2).

As per claims 6 and 30, said system and method, comprising:

- contracting an amount of energy of said associated AC power transfer on each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection as essentially an associated linear, skew-symmetric function of said associated amount of energy from said associated first node to said associated second node (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20; column 11, lines 29-44; column 18, lines 44-67).

As per claims 9, 33 and 53, said system and method, comprising:

- contracting for said AC power transfer on said AC power network to create a contract by a first party to own AC power transfer trading rights with associated AC power transfers on each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20; column 11, lines 29-44; column 18, lines 44-67).

- enabling said first party to further contract to sell said first party owned AC power transfer trading rights (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15;

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column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20; column 11, lines 29-44; column 18, lines 44-67).

As per claims 10, 34 and 54, said system and method, comprising:

- determining whether said associated AC power transfer of said flow gate of said flow gate collection satisfies said associated maximum safe carrying capacity of said flow gate for each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection (column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15);

- approving said AC power transfer whenever said associated power transfer of said flow gate satisfies said maximum safe carrying capacity for each said flow gates of said flow gate collection (column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15).

As per claims 11 and 35, said system and method, comprising:

- enabling said first party to further contract to sell said first party owned AC power transfer trading rights before scheduling said AC power transfer for said contract (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20; column 11, lines 29-44; column 18, lines 44-67).

As per claims 12 and 36, said system and method, comprising:

- scheduling said AC power transfer for said contract which occurs before said first time interval (column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 7, lines 35-58; column 11, line 30 through column 12, line 53).

As per claims 13 and 37, said system and method, comprising:

- determining whether said associated AC power transfer of said flow gate of said flow gate collection satisfies said associated maximum safe carrying capacity of said flow gate for

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each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection over said first time interval (column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15);

- approving said AC power transfer over said first time interval whenever said associated AC power transfer of said flow gate of said flow gate collection satisfies said associated maximum safe carrying capacity of said flow gate for each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection over said first time interval (column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15).

As per claims 14 and 38, said system and method, comprising:

- contracting for a sum of associated AC power transfers for all AC power transfers of said AC power transfer collection to create a contract for an associated AC power transfer for said collection of AC power transfers for each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20; column 11, lines 29-44; column 18, lines 44-67).

As per claims 15 and 39, said system and method, comprising:

- calculating said associated AC power transfer on said flow gate of said AC power transfer as an amount of energy which is an essentially linear, skew-symmetric associated function of said amount of energy of said AC power transfer from said associated first node of said AC power transfer to said associated second node of said AC power transfer of each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20; column 11, lines 29-44; column 18, lines 44-67).

As per claims 16-17 and 40-41, said system and method, comprising:

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- enabling said first party to further contract to sell said first party owned AC power transfer trading rights for said associated AC power transfer for each of said flow gates of said flow gate collection (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20; column 11, lines 29-44; column 18, lines 44-67).

As per claims 22, 45 and 55, said system and method, comprising:

- identifying a first of said clients operating a first of said client computers as said first party (column 2, lines 26-27; column 18, lines 26-41, 44-67; column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20; column 11, lines 29-44).

As per claims 23, 46 and 56, said system and method, comprising:

- receiving a stimulus from said first user to create a received stimulus stream (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20, 35-58; column 11, line 29 through column 12, line 53; column 18, lines 44-67).

- communicating via said network with said first server computer to create a received server stream and to create a server delivery stream (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20, 35-58; column 11, line 29 through column 12, line 53; column 18, lines 44-67).

- displaying an interactive status based upon said received stimulus stream and said received server stream (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20, 35-58; column 11, line 29 through column 12, line 53; column 18, lines 44-67).



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- communicating via said network with said first client computer to create a received server delivery stream (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20, 35-58; column 11, line 29 through column 12, line 53; column 18, lines 44-67).

As per claims 24, 47-50 and 57-60, said system and method, comprising:

- transforming said received server delivery stream into an order collection containing at least one bid order and at least one ask order (column 10, lines 20-39);

- contracting AC power transfer on said AC power network to create a contract based upon a first of said bid orders of said order collection and based upon a first of said ask orders of said order collection (column 4, lines 47-53; column 4, line 60 through column 5, line 15; column 6, lines 44-45; column 7, lines 1-9, 19-20, 35-58; column 10, lines 20-39; column 11, line 29 through column 12, line 53; column 18, lines 44-67).

As per claims 51 and 61, said system, comprising a server collection of server computers performing a distributed system with a process group collection of at least one process group, wherein each of said server computers is accessibly coupled with a computer memory, wherein said program operating system includes program code segments implementing at least one of the process groups of said collection of process groups (column 2, lines 26-27; column 18, lines 26-41).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18-21 and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuck et al. in view of Luke et al. (U. S. 6,131,087).

As per claims 18-21 and 42-44, Tuck et al. teach all the limitations of claims 18-21 and 42-44, except that the first party is represented by an agent authorized by said first party to act on behalf of said first party with respect to contracting AC power transfer.

Luke et al. teach to a method and system for automatically identifying and matching buyers and sellers in electronic market transactions, wherein participating parties are represented by agents which act on behalf of said participating parties to authorize a contract (column 1, lines 13-15, 35-39; column 4, lines 26-45; column 10, lines 43-63).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tuck et al. to include that participants are represented by agents which act on their behalf to authorize a contract because it would enhance the effectiveness of the system by delegating negotiating tasks to specialized entities, and simplify the use of the system by automating the negotiating tasks.

### *Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (see form PTO-892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Igor Borissov at telephone number (703) 305-4649.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John Weiss, can be reached at (703) 308- 2702.

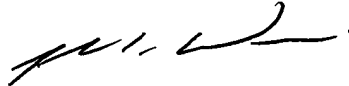
Any response to this action should be mailed to:

*Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington D.C. 20231*

or faxed to:

**(703) 305-7687** [Official communications; including  
After Final communications labeled  
"Box AF"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, VA, 7<sup>th</sup> floor receptionist.

  
**JOHN G. WEISS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**